

**Glenda Wiles**

**From:** douglas.p.nation@gskbio.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2007 3:58 PM  
**To:** Glenda Wiles  
**Subject:** Stream-side Setback Regulations



Dear Commissioners,

Unfortunately, I have responsibilities to my employer that preclude my attending and commenting during today's public meeting on the interim emergency stream-side setback regulations. I would appreciate having the opportunity to comment on those regulations, in writing, via this e-mail. If appropriate, please enter these comments into the public record.

It seems as the ugly head of misinformation, or more appropriately characterized as purposeful dis-information, is once again attempting to have a detrimental effect on discussions regarding land use planning in Ravalli County. The interim emergency stream-side setback regulations, as formulated by the Stream-side Setback Working Group and outlined in the document before you, are reasonable and appropriate. They are necessary to protect the critically important riparian public resource and preserve the quality of life for citizens in Ravalli County.

All discussion about government personal property rights "takings" is inaccurate and disingenuous as is the notion that protecting the community resource somehow devalues the property. However, when ill-advised building occurs too close to active streams, the subsequent bank stabilization that must occur to protect those structures does "take" away the ability of the stream to behave naturally and reduces the publicly owned value in the stream and associated riparian ecosystem. Do the rights of an individual landowner trump the rights of his neighbors? It is unfortunate that not everyone possesses the sensitivity and wisdom to voluntarily protect the critically important resources that affect the whole community - hence the need to protect those resources via regulation.

I urge you to act now and provide the protection afforded by the emergency stream-side setback regulations. The water quality, fisheries, and wildlife protection that will result will be the legacy that we, as current citizens of the Bitterroot valley will pass along to following generations.

Respectfully,

Doug Nation  
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